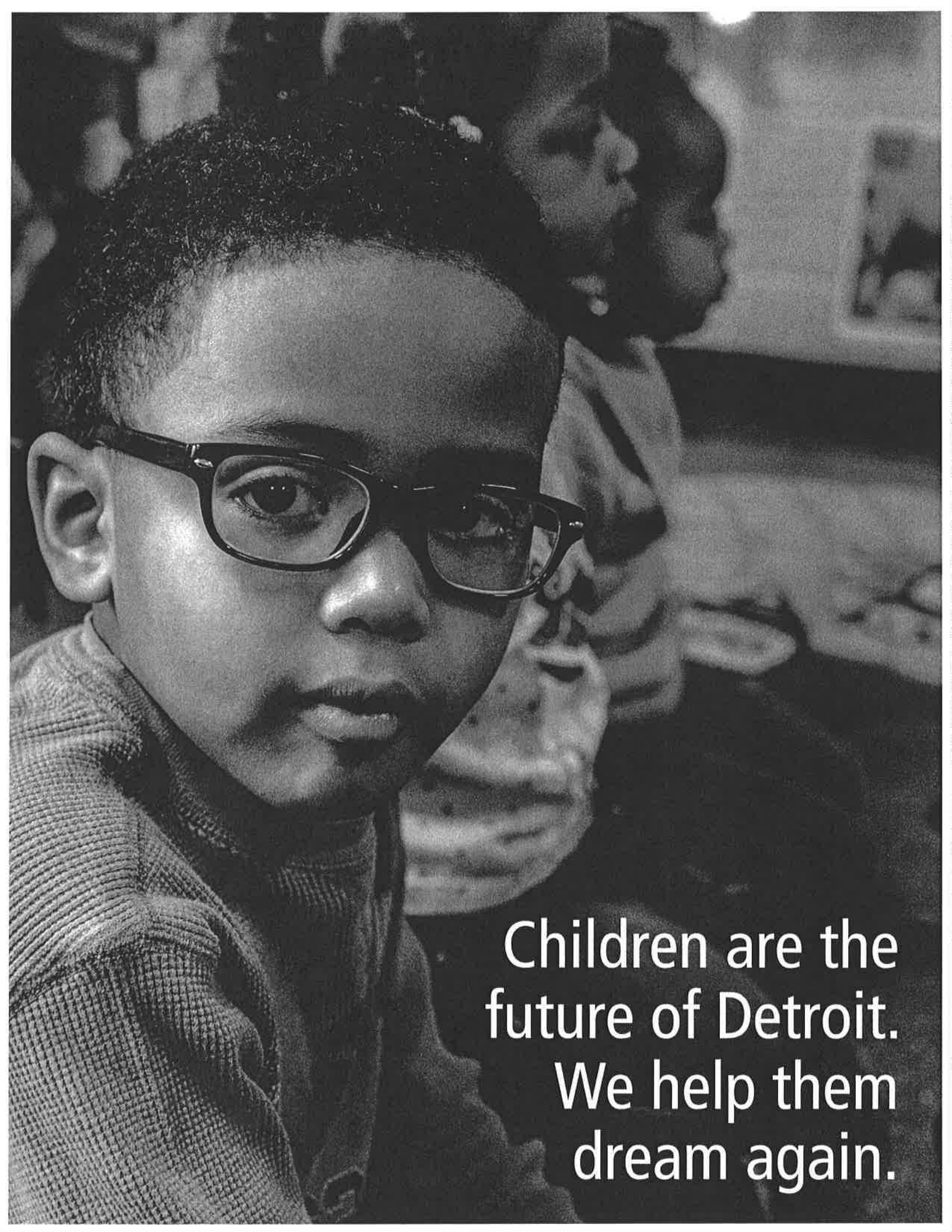


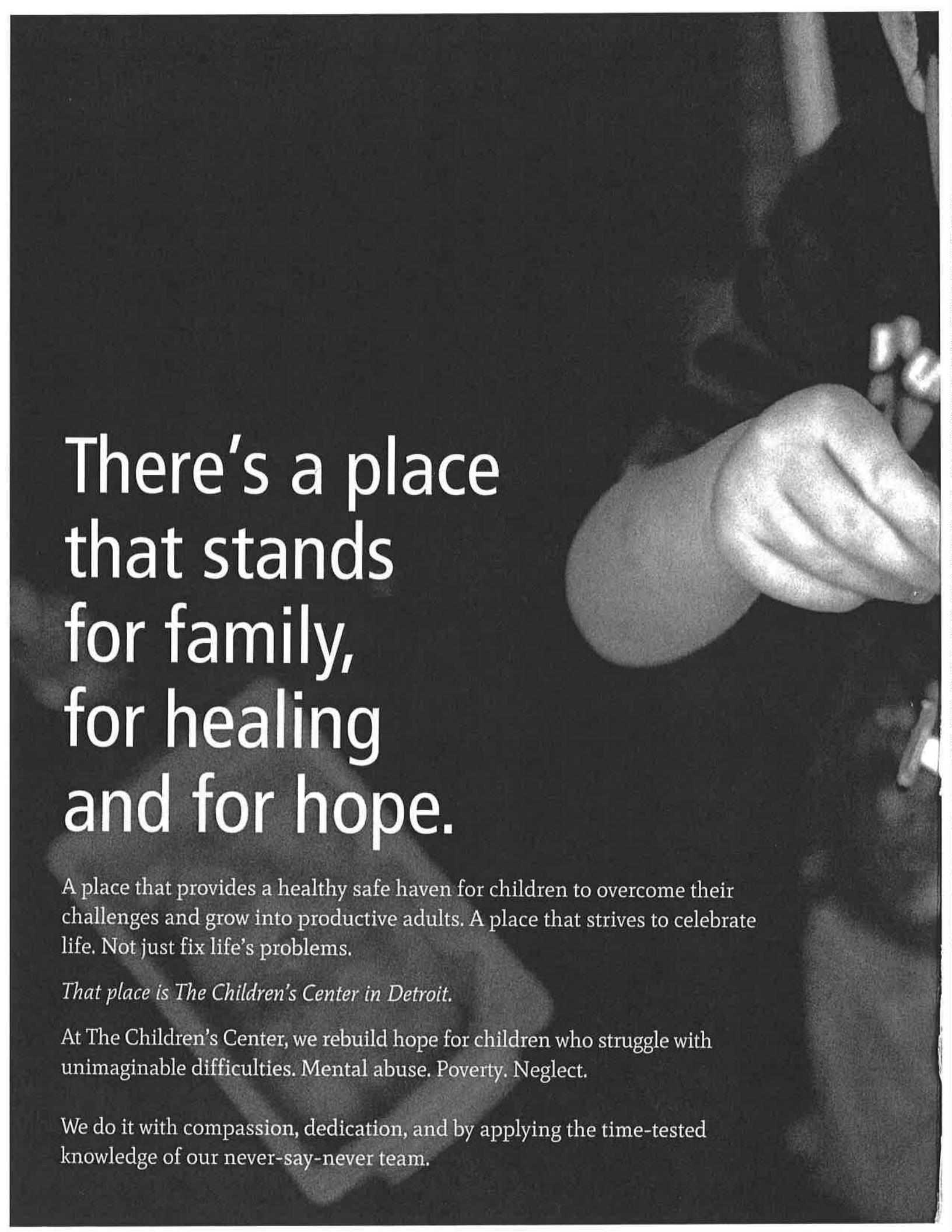
HELPING CHILDREN & FAMILIES HEAL



HELPING CHILDREN DREAM AGAIN



Children are the
future of Detroit.
We help them
dream again.



There's a place that stands for family, for healing and for hope.

A place that provides a healthy safe haven for children to overcome their challenges and grow into productive adults. A place that strives to celebrate life. Not just fix life's problems.

That place is The Children's Center in Detroit.

At The Children's Center, we rebuild hope for children who struggle with unimaginable difficulties. Mental abuse. Poverty. Neglect.

We do it with compassion, dedication, and by applying the time-tested knowledge of our never-say-never team.

How we help your child

Our licensed psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists work with children who struggle with behavioral, emotional, educational and physical challenges and may have experienced trauma.

We treat the whole child, looking at more than a single issue so we can provide the best, most comprehensive integrated care.

We examine barriers in the home, school and community, working with the family who raises them and the organizations that support them.

We provide best practice and evidence-based care to guide diagnosis and treatment, and help families overcome their struggles.

Every 18 minutes a child is abused or neglected.

1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism; 1 in 42 boys.

The average age of a sexual abuse victim is 9.

Areas of care

We've been working with children since 1929, and currently care for more than 7,500 Detroit children and families each year. Here are the services we provide.

Healthy Start

Sometimes parents who are just beginning a family need extra help ensuring the success and wellbeing of their child. Healthy Start provides programs, services and therapy for families with newborns up to school aged-children.

- Early Childhood Behavioral Health Services
- Head Start Academy
- Literacy Services
- Parent Education

Healing the Hurt

It's not easy when your child experiences trauma or emotional challenges. These programs help children and families cope, heal and thrive.

- ADHD Clinic
- Autism Services
- Behavioral Sleep Clinic
- Center-Based Services
- Community-Based Services
- Crisis Care Services
- Family Court Behavioral Services

- General Behavioral Health Services
- Home-Based Services
- Nursing Services
- Parent Support Partners
- School-Based Services
- Wraparound Services
- Psychiatric Services
- Psychological Services
- Youth Peer Support Services

A Safe Home

The Children's Center believes in preserving biological families. We work with families and relatives of families to preserve the family unit, however when the safety of a child is concerned we help ensure care and services for those who have been abused or neglected.

- Adoptions
- Foster Care
- Respite Care
- Young Adult Self-Sufficiency (YASS)

Bridging the Gap

This program connects families and children with valuable resources at our center and within the community. Families can use these support services in addition to participating in other therapy programs.

- After School Enrichment Services
- Case Management

- CC's Boutique
- Community Resource Centers
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Hospital Liaison
- Supports Coordination
- Tau Beta Center for Discovery
- Tutorial Services

Autism Services

One in every 68 children is diagnosed with autism. The first important step is early diagnosis. If you think your child may be affected with autism spectrum disorder, don't wait to seek care. We provide comprehensive evaluations and intensive treatment that helps children become more successful and participate fully in life.

Crisis Care Services

Many children experience crises that create intense emotional, mental, physical and behavioral distress. Our Crisis Care Center provides a walk-in environment for "cooling down" and addressing life or behavioral issues, as an alternative to expensive hospital emergency care.

Head Start Academy

The Children's Center Head Start Academy provides a safe, high-quality early childhood education program and behavioral health services for children ages 3-5. Helping prepare your child for school, and for life.

If your child is hurting, we can help.

For immediate assistance, call 313.262.1212. Our regular hours are Monday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General Information

313.831.5535

M-TH: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

F: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

79 Alexandrine West
Detroit, MI 48201

Immediate Assistance

313.262.1212

M-F: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Crisis Care Center

313.324.8557

M-F: 8 a.m. – midnight

Sat: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

79 Alexandrine West
Building 90
Detroit, MI 48201

Autism Services

313.831.5535

M-F: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

101 Alexandrine East
Detroit, MI 48201

Head Start Academy

For eligible 3-5 year old children

313.481.5114

19900 Evergreen
Detroit, MI 48219

Walk-In Hours

Walk-ins welcome during

the following hours:

M-T-TH: 8 a.m. – 12 noon

"There are thousands of kids still out there thinking it's their fault and desperately wanting to be loved. They need The Children's Center."

– FREDDIE, THE CHILDREN'S CENTER FOSTER CARE PROGRAM ALUMNI

Heal children. Heal Detroit.

The future of our city is in our children's stories. While many begin in heartbreak, that's only the first chapter. At The Children's Center, we help children rewrite their future, transforming their hurt into healing, despair into courage, and trauma into triumph. Their stories are success stories.

Take our free, one-hour tour to learn about how we help children and families heal, grow and dream again.



The Children's Center
79 Alexandrine West
Detroit MI, 48201
313.831.5535

TheChildrensCenter.com

Testimony

Presented By: Debora Matthews, President/CEO
The Children's Center of Wayne County
Presented To: Senate Oversight Committee
Subject: Support of Senate Bills 529 and 530

10/5/2017

Greetings to Senators MacGregor and others serving on the Senate Oversight Committee. I am **Debora Matthews, President and CEO of The Children's Center (TCC) of Wayne County** located in Midtown Detroit. I thank you for the opportunity to come before the Senate Oversight Committee today to share some of our concerns.

The Children's Center provides behavioral health and child welfare services to about 7,500 children and families each year, residing in Wayne County for behavioral health and throughout the SE Michigan tri-county area for child welfare. We serve children birth through age 21. The Children's Center is 88 years old and has been providing foster care and adoptions services since the early 1980's and independent living services since 2006.

I'd like to first express my continued appreciation to the legislators who have been instrumental in supporting private agency efforts to provide exemplary care supporting the safety and well-being to children in out of home placement in the State of Michigan. We could not do what we do without that support. We are very excited about the pending legislation: Senate Bills 529 and 530. I applaud the efforts of all involved in the work so far: the courts and the counties and other who have gotten us to where we are now. They have been onboard with the changes we feel are necessary to bring the **Social Welfare Act related to the Child Care Fund** into the 21st century.

I'd like to share some of the challenges we have faced as a private agency doing the work we do based on the limitations and complexities of the current **Social Welfare Act** under which we now operate. As you know, the private agency contracts are between our agencies and MDHHS. Although we totally understand the necessity for county participation in the payment process, it creates extreme hardship for us. Due to the complexity the current process creates, our agency has over the years had to wait as long as 6 years for payment for services we provided. We've had to endure numerous repeat billings, location of paperwork, re-signing of documentation, numerous phone calls to counties offices, and meetings on top of meetings to get services paid. An example: foster care garners about \$5,000,000 a year for TCC. Prior to the extreme recent efforts of the state DHHS department staff under Steve Yager and Jennifer Wrayno we were only able to collect about 60% of this revenue causing extreme hardship for our agency-having to write off 40% of what was rightly ours. At one point, my Board of Directors advised that we consider discontinuing this book of business given the billing and collections challenges. We were ready to retreat. But thanks to the extra efforts forged by Jen Wrayno's team, we were able to recoup a much greater %. But it took way too much effort on the State's part as well as ours. We consistently employ 2 extra staff with the sole responsibility of making sure the numerous billings and collections efforts can continue on a regular basis and that we never get 6 years behind again. The proposed revisions to the **Social Welfare Act** will provide the much needed efficiencies saving the DHHS department and private agencies much time, effort and resources. TCC wants to use these resources to provide more for the well-being and support of foster children and youth, foster parents, as well as birth parents – and for prevention efforts to keep children with their families. That's where the resources should always be focused. Thank you for your advocacy and support of Senate Bills 529 and 530. We look forward to a more streamlined payment process and systems that more adequately support effective transition of children and youth in the child welfare system. Thank you!